

UNAPPROVED



**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING

Thursday, August 13, 2015
9:00 a.m.

Queen Liliuokalani Building
1390 Miller Street, Honolulu, Hawaii
Fourth Floor, Room 404

MEMBERS

Mitch D’Olier
Kalehua Krug
Ernest Nishizaki
Catherine Payne (Chairperson)
Karen Street (Vice Chairperson)
Roger Takabayashi

EXCUSED

Jill Baldemor
Peter Hanohano
Peter Tomozawa

ALSO PRESENT

Alapaki Nahale-a, Commission’s School Director Advisor
Tom Hutton, Executive Director
Leila Shar, Financial Performance Manager
Beth Bulgeron, Academic Performance Manager
Danny Vasconcellos, Organizational Performance Manager

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair Catherine Payne called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of General Meeting Minutes:

A. June 18, 2015

Commission Chair Payne stated the June 18, 2015 minutes has already been approved at the last meeting and will approve July 9th and August 13th General Business Meeting minutes at the September meeting.

III. Applications Committee Report

Commissioner Mitch D'Olier reported on the Applications Committee meeting which included action on the recommendations for charter applicants' iLEAD Kauai – Alakai O Kauai Charter School, IMAG Academy, and Kamalani Academy. Commissioner D'Olier shared thanks and appreciation to the evaluation team members, Commission staff, and applicants.

IV. Presentation on 2014-2015 Charter Application Cycle Process and Decision-Making Stage

Executive Director Tom Hutton provided an overview of the application cycle process and decision making stage. He stated that the process is aligned with national best practices and leading authorizers.

Applications and Operations Specialist Kenyon Tam presented on the 2014-2015 charter application cycle process and decision-making stage. He discussed the evaluation team members; the recommendations from the evaluation team and operations staff; Phase 1 and Phase 2 criteria; the decision-making process; the purpose of the charter application cycle process to approve high quality charter schools; NACSA principals and standards; and list of quality applications process.

Commissioner Roger Takabayashi asked if the recommendation from the evaluation team is a consensus. Tam responded that the evaluation team is asked to come up with a consensus rating. He shared the evaluation team may not necessarily agree on every point but the major sections and final recommendation as a consensus. Commission Chair Payne asked that the criteria for the initial and final phase were explicit and clear in each section. Tam confirmed that it is a part of the request for proposal and shared the final application criteria is more detailed and contains specific questions and the initial phase is more broad and has minimum thresholds.

Commissioner Chair Payne called for public testimony. No public testimony or written testimony provided.

V. Action on Charter Application for Proposed Charter School, iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School

No conflicts were disclosed for the Commission members and applicants.

Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony. Written testimony submitted by: Mike Pooley, Stacey Willow Lindberg, Leilani Smith, Scott Silverston, Lina Skinner, Corissa Kopmann, Ann Williamson, Joana Wheeler, Frieda Gayle, Barbara Fontana Natland, Maegan Sakai, Kaplan Bunce, Elizabeth Reeves, James H. Natland, Yuriko Carol Wellington, Leslie Frasier, Jaron Lawson, Deena Fontana Moraes, Kim Acierto, Mindy Murray, Minna Freeman, Maureen Hiramoto, Robert Sherrill, Heatherbell Fong, Kim Acierto, Jamie Baldwin, Tara Robiteau, Bonie Rasmussen, Felicia Cowden, Amber Golden Raskin, Bicki & David Braman, Minna Freeman, Ted Fujimoto, Jade Moss, Elizabeth Scamahorn, and Alida White.

Deena Fontana Moraes, iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School's proposed School Director, provided testimony on the expertise of the iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School team, discussed supporters and partners, and asked for approval of the charter school application.

Caroline Freudig, iLEAD Kauai Hui, provided testimony on the application process, the application's curriculum section, the middle school grades, staffing, assessments, and ensuring a high quality education.

Stu Rosenthal, iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School's proposed school Business Manager, testified on the proposed budget and contingency plans, the agreement with the education service provider to reduce its fee dollar per student enrollment count, and the potential fundraisers and revenues with the proposed facilities. He shared his work experience.

Bill Arakaki, Department of Education Kauai Complex Area Superintendent, provided testimony in support of iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School. He discussed his connection with Deena Fontana Moraes and Dr. Kani Blackwell, the importance of having education opportunities for all students, and support of the applicant group further.

Derek Kawakami, State of Hawaii House Representative for District 14, provided testimony in support of iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School. He discussed his connection with Moraes and Dr. Blackwell, his support of the iLEAD Kauai's international global awareness and concept of project based learning, and the importance of education options for Kauai families.

Dr. Kani Blackwell, iLEAD Kauai – Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School's Education Consultant, provided testimony on the academic plan, the iLEAD team, the proposed school site, the support of the Kauai community, the purpose of charter schools, and request to approve the charter school application.

Hutton presented and provided highlights on the charter school applicant iLEAD Kauai - Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School. He recounted that during Phase 1 the evaluation of the initial recommendation by the Commission staff was "substantially inadequate" but the applicant was invited to continue to Phase 2. He shared the final recommendation to deny the applicant. He discussed the evaluation report and highlighted the evaluation team's concerns regarding the academic, financial, and organization plan, the applicant's response, and the evaluation team's rebuttal. He acknowledged the strong support for the school.

The Commission and applicant group discussed the budget and the proposed grades served; the non-profit loan; the services provided by the education services provider; and the process in selecting iLEAD as the education services provider.

The Commission and evaluation team further discussed the evaluation report; iLEAD student data; NWEA scores; California's accountability system; and other evaluations and assessments. The Commission and CAS Arakaki discussed the information provided by the evaluation team concerning the student data.

ACTION: Moved to deny 2014 Charter School application for iLEAD Kauai - Alaka'i O Kaua'i Charter School (Takabayashi/Nishizaki). The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner D'Olier shared concerns regarding the iLEAD student data and the middle school plan. He noted the community's need for a school and support of that. Commissioner Roger Takabayashi shared concern on the organization of the highly qualified teachers for the middle school. Commissioner Kalehua Krug suggested the applicants to consider creating an application that is their own and without the education services provider.

VI. Action on Charter Application for Proposed Charter School, IMAG Academy

No conflicts were disclosed for the Commission members and applicants.

Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony. Written testimony submitted by: Sheila Buyukacar, Shirley Ames, and list of supports of the IMAG Academy (373 names).

Deborah Bond-Upson, Learning Bond, provided testimony in support of the application. She discussed her work experience and background and support of IMAG Academy.

Sheila Buyukacar, proposed IMAG Academy School Director, provided testimony on the proposed budget, proposed location, supporters, the need for a school in the Central Leeward area, and requested the Commission to approve the charter school application.

Hutton presented and provided highlights on the charter school applicant IMAG Academy. He recounted that during Phase 1 the recommendation by the Commission was that IMAG Academy voluntarily withdraw its application, but the applicant opted to continue to Phase 2. He shared the final recommendation is to deny the application of IMAG Academy. He discussed the evaluation report and highlighted concerns regarding the applicant's academic, financial, and organization plan.

Organizational Performance Manager Danny Vasconcellos shared appreciation of the evaluation team.

ACTION: Moved to deny 2014 Charter School Application for IMAG Academy (Committee). The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners D'Olier and Takabayashi shared concerns on the financial and organizational plans.

VII. Action on Charter Application for Proposed Charter School, Kamalani Academy

No conflicts were disclosed for the Commission members and applicants.

Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony. Written testimony submitted by: Steve Davidson, Ed. D., Blaine Fergerstrom, Ilse Pratt, Beth P. Uale, Ed.D., Travis Uale, Crichton Uale, Evan Anderson, Crystal Ka'aha'aina, Beth Uale, Pam Love, and Aaron Mair.

Jamie Simpson Steele, Kamalani Academy Advisory Board member, provided testimony on the academic framework and arts integration. She discussed the arts integration program at Pomaikai Elementary School, the proposed curriculum for Kamalani Academy, and the curriculum coordinator.

Dr. Steve Davidson, Kamalani Academy Governing Board member, provided testimony on the application process, and the successes of Academica Nevada and Doral Academy.

Kuuipo Laumatia, Kamalani Academy Governing Board member, provided testimony on the vision for Kamalani Academy, the purpose of choosing Academica Nevada and Doral Academy, arts integration, and urged the Commission to approve the charter school application.

Bob Howell, Chief Executive Officer of Academica Nevada, provided testimony. He discussed the collaboration with Academica Nevada and Kamalani Academy; Doral Academy; and the arts integration curriculum.

Lei Cummings, Kamalani Academy Governing Board member, provided testimony. She discussed her family, need for alternative education options, Academica Nevada, and encouraged the Commission to approve the charter school application.

Erin Horner, HI FusionED, provided testimony in support of Kamalani Academy. She shared information on HI FusionED and discussed the potential collaboration with Kamalani Academy.

Hutton presented and provided highlights on the charter school applicant Kamalani Academy. He discussed the evaluation report and highlighted concerns regarding the applicant's academic, financial, and organization plan, the applicant's response, and the evaluation team's rebuttal. He recounted that during Phase 1 the application was deemed inadequate but the application was invited to Phase 2. He reminded the Commission that there were different criteria for Phases 1 and 2 which can result into different evaluations.

The Commission and evaluation team discussed the application's academic plan further.

The Commission and applicant group discussed the application further; the academic plan; the development of the curriculum; the governing board members; the partnerships with Academica Nevada, Dural Academy and Pomaikai Elementary School; and student outcomes.

Dr. VerlieAnn Malina-Wright, Kamalani Academy Advisory Board member, provided testimony on the arts integration; staffing; and the proposed facilities.

The Commission and applicant group discussed the location and rent of the proposed facility; the student population; partnership with Turner-Agassi Foundation; the development of the application; and the commitment of the group to pursue a charter.

ACTION: Moved to deny 2014 Charter School Application for Kamalani Academy (Takabayashi/Nishizaki). The motion passed with five ayes (Mitch D'Olier, Ernest Nishizaki, Catherine Payne, Karen Street, and Roger Takabayashi) and one abstention (Kalehua Krug).

Commissioners D'Olier and Ernest Nishizaki provided comments on Kamalani Academy.

Commission Chair Payne recessed the meeting at 11:23 a.m. and reconvened at 11:38 a.m.

VIII. Action on Mālama Honua Public Charter School's May 2015 Monthly Report for Commission's Financial Monitoring

Financial Performance Manager Leila Shar presented on Mālama Honua Public Charter School's May 2015 monthly report for Commission's financial monitoring. She discussed the recommendation to reduce the monthly financial monitoring to quarterly. Commissioner Nishizaki asked if a school should require increased monitoring in the future. She noted that a recommendation to increase monitoring is an option should the school require it.

ACTION: Moved that the Commission reduce the frequency of financial monitoring of Malama Honua from a monthly to a quarterly basis until such time the Commission deems such additional financial monitoring no longer necessary (Takabayashi/D'Olier). The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Update on Ka Waihona o ka Na‘auao Public Charter School’s May 2015 Monthly Report for Commission’s Financial Monitoring

Shar provided an update on Ka Waihona o ka Na‘auao Public Charter School’s May 2015 monthly financial monitoring report.

Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony. No written testimony submitted.

Alvin Parker, Principal of Ka Waihona o ka Na‘auao Public Charter School, provided testimony on the school’s financial monitoring. He shared the Commission’s reluctance to count the grants from Kamehameha Schools and Office of Hawaiian Affairs as receivables therefor misrepresenting the days’ cash on hand. He requested the Commission to discontinue the financial monitoring. He shared the school has discontinued the line of credit and has complied with the Commission’s requests.

Commissioner Krug asked how to proceed with the request. Shar responded that the agenda item does not allow any action of the Commission but will be agendized on a future meeting agenda. The Commission discussed the legal implications of lines of credits for public institutions and financial liability.

X. Update on Public Input Regarding Discussion Draft of Charter Contract Renewal Criteria

Hutton provided an update on the public input regarding discussion of the draft Charter Contract Renewal criteria. He shared the Commission has presented to School Directors, Governing Boards, and other stakeholders through webinars and in-person meetings. He noted there will be additional meetings and engagements scheduled. He stated the Commission is taking the feedback seriously and is working on revisions to the initial proposal based on the suggestions received thus far.

Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony. Written testimony submitted by John Thatcher, Steve Hirakami, Alvin Parker, Kamakaopiopiowiwo’ole Gunderson, Ed Noh, Diana Oshiro, Keoni Bunag, Hedy Sullivan, Kaponi Ciotti, Susan Osborne, Leigh Fitzgerald, John Colson, Lydia Trinidad, and Anna Winslow.

Lynn Finnegan, Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (“HPCSN”), provided testimony. She provided comments on the process and suggested having a couple of Commissions present at the meetings to help with the process and hear what the schools are thinking.

John Thatcher, Principal at Connections Public Charter School, provided testimony. He referenced written testimony submitted by 14 charter schools. He shared comments on the timeline, the charter contract and renewal for exemplary schools, the Commission’s administrative rules, best practices of other organizations, and concern that the proposal does not meet the administrative rules and charter contract.

Hutton discussed the Commission’s administrative rules, charter school law and timeline. He stated the testimony regarding the charter contract and two-year extension was an initial approach for exemplary schools that is an option for schools that fall into that category, however the proposed draft renewal criteria offers a five-year renewal for exemplary schools.

Commissioner Advisor Alapaki Nahale-a provided comments on the draft of the Charter Contract Renewal criteria which included the timeline for schools to provide feedback; measures for charter school successes; and continuing the discussion to include in the framework. Commissioner D'Olier asked how the Commission measures good outcomes and discussed the measures currently used to track growth such as college going rate. The Commission discussed the various funding challenges for schools.

Kamaka Gunderson, Principal, Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School, provided testimony on the challenges her school faces with the student population and servicing them.

XI. Action on Application Process and 2015-2016 Application Cycle Timeline

Tam presented on the application process and the 2015-2016 application cycle timeline. He discussed the recommendation to return to the single phase process; the timeline; shared feedback from NACSA regarding applicants the ability to amend proposals.

The Commission and Tam discussed the current application process.

Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony. No written testimony submitted.

Dr. Blackwell, Education Consultant, provided testimony on the application process. She shared the current process has no rubrics or clear examples. She stated iLEAD Kauai will be appealing to the Board of Education to approve the application as a K-5 grades served, as the current process does not allow amendments. She provided comments on the denial of the application. She shared the need for stronger input on the process.

Finnegan, HPCSN, provided testimony on the application process. She shared the importance on delivering clear and specific expectations of the applications; the upcoming services HPCSN will provide to applicants; and suggestions on the process and timeline.

The Commission and Tam discussed the timeline further.

ACTION: Moved that the Commission:

1. **Adopt a single-phase application process;**
2. **Adopt the revised general application timeline for the 2015-2016 charter application cycle, as presented in the submittal dated August 4, 2015; and**
3. **Authorize staff to finalize the details of the process and timeline for future approval by the Commission (Takabayashi/D'Olier).**

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner D'Olier shared comments on the establishment of the Commission and support organizations. Commissioner Krug shared comments on the meeting he attended with the Na Lei Na'auao group.

XII. Executive Director's Written Report

- A. Update on Charter Schools' Notices of Deficiency
- B. Update on Complaints Against Charter Schools

- C. Notification of Governing Board Meeting Waivers
 - D. Updates on Commission's Conditional Approvals on Charter Schools' Admission Policies and Procedures
 - E. Update on Ka'u Learning Academy
- XIII. Adjournment
- Commission Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.